

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/FR2003/050138

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference B 14148.3 JL	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/FR2003/050138	International filing date (day/month/year) 27 novembre 2003 (27.11.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 novembre 2002 (28.11.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01H 59/00		
Applicant COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 07 juin 2004 (07.06.2004)	Date of completion of this report 07 March 2005 (07.03.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed

the description:

pages 1-15, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 1-6, filed with the letter of 07 January 2005 (07.01.2005)

the drawings:

pages 1/3-3/3, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/FR 03/50138

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Claim 1

1. The present application relates to an electrostatic micro-switch.
2. **Closest prior art:** US 2002/027487 A1 (SUZUKI KENICHIRO) (7 March 2002), which matches the preamble of independent claim 1 of the application.
3. The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the closest prior art by virtue of the following features:
"the first electrostatic force initiates deformation of the flexible means until mechanical contact of the flexible means is achieved, the ends (14, 15) of the conductive paths (4, 5) being far enough apart to prevent the contact pad (6) from electrically connecting the ends of the two conductive paths".
The **problem** that this **difference** solves is that of:
"maintaining a low actuation voltage and a short switching time while preserving a high mechanical stiffness of the micro-switch in use".

4. Novelty and inventive step:

The solution proposed in the application is not described in the prior art cited in the international search report. It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 is **novel**.

Furthermore, neither the prior art documents cited in the international search report nor the general knowledge of a person skilled in the art provide an indication of the production of such a device. In the documents cited in the international search report, the contact of the first set of electrodes is simultaneously mechanical and electrical. It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 **involves an inventive step**.